

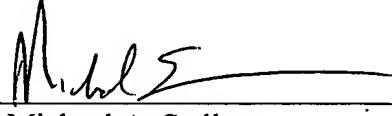
unknown. In order to evaluate the unknown, Maris mentions “interpolating between reference samples to obtain an intermediate set of material properties.” However, Maris never mentions anything about the type of interpolation he intends to use. Presumably, Maris would use a standard interpolation approach which have various drawbacks of the type discussed in the background section of this application. Certainly, Maris contains no suggestion of “interpolating between the interpolation points *using an interpolation model that defines a substantially continuous function which intersects with the interpolation points.*” Maris ‘921 also mentions interpolation. However, like Maris ‘684, there is no specific discussion about the type of interpolation he intends to use.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Maris ‘684, either alone or in combination with Maris ‘921. Accordingly, it is submitted that independent claim 1, along with the claims depending therefrom also define patentable subject matter and allowance thereof is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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